

The Rabbi Search Update

The Rabbi Search Committee is happy to report progress on several fronts. At the end of December, we had received four resumes. We're currently reviewing those resumes, soliciting additional information from applicants, and continuing to formulate interview questions and criteria based upon congregational input we received earlier in the fall. Although we anticipate receiving additional resumes, we're targeting the end of January or early February to start the formal interview process.

Four members of the Committee attended the UAHC Biennial. On Friday, December 17, Alex Ingersoll, Daniel Chesir, Phyllis Mintzer and David Gellman met with Rabbi Arnold Sher, the head of the Rabbinical Placement Commission. During our 30-minute meeting, we were able to clarify some questions he had about our congregation and our needs, and we were able to solicit his advice on several procedural points. We had frank discussions and are pleased to have Rabbi Sher's assistance and support in our task.

During the course of the conference, one or more committee members also attended workshops or working lunches on the hiring of synagogue professionals, on rabbinical transitions (which included ample discussion of the hiring process), and on new models of partnered leadership. Although a recurring theme of the week was the extreme shortage of Jewish professionals (rabbis, cantors and educators), it was also clear that much about the size, diversity, structure, values and location of our synagogue make it an attractive post for those rabbis who are contemplating a move.

New Siddur

(from the Siddur Committee)

A draft of the third edition of the Sha'ar Zahav Shabbat Evening Siddur (prayerbook) will be introduced for initial use and congregational review this month. Our Siddur was first published in 1982, and it was revised in 1994. The unique richness of our Siddur, like our community, is rooted in its integration of our Jewish tradition with our egalitarian, feminist and gay-positive ideas and language. In the current edition, we have sought to continue and expand CSZ's tradition of creating liturgy that reflects who we are as whole people.

We come to Sha'ar Zahav from many varied backgrounds, movements, affiliations, traditions and practices. In order to develop a Siddur which will contin-

ue to resonate with our congregation and reflect our community's diversity, we have tried to cast a wide liturgical net. We have drawn from the traditions we have been handed, we have sought out sources that have been hidden and we have tapped the creative gifts of our own community.

In this revision, we have been mindful of, and have sought to expand, the principles which have distinguished our Siddur in the past: using non-sexist language when referring to both people and God; restoring visibility to women throughout Jewish tradition; speaking directly to the experience of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people; understanding Jewish "chosenness" as

Continued on pg. 3

Women's Prayers: An Exploration of Yiddish Tekhines

Do you know where gender, spirituality, language and devotion meet? It's at CSZ...where we will be exploring tekhines, Yiddish prayers written for (and on-ly sometimes by) Jewish women. All texts will be provided in English. Come examine the prayers of our Eastern European ancestors with Rabbi Dorothy A. Richman on Thursday, February 10, from 7:30-9:00 pm. RSVP to Dahlia at 575-4961. This one-time class is part of the sixth annual community-wide "Feast of Jewish Learning: Take a Bite," sponsored by the SF Bureau of Jewish Education. CSZ Members: Free, Non-Members: requested donation \$1-\$5.



This photo of Dolores Street, ca. 1850, is from Robert Tat's collection of historical San Francisco photographs.

Millennial Biennial



David Gellman

At the end of December, it was my privilege to join a large contingent representing Sha'ar Zahav at the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (UAHC) Biennial Conference in

Orlando, where we joined with over 5,000 Reform Jews from across the United States and Canada in discussion, worship and study. All of us returned inspired and energized. A particular highlight for me was the keynote Shabbat sermon given by UAHC President Rabbi Eric Yoffie.

Rabbi Yoffie spoke eloquently on many themes: enrichment of our worship by undertaking a program of adult Hebrew literacy; nurturing the Jewish family, in all its contemporary forms; fighting for religious pluralism in the State of Israel; focusing on gun control not as a political problem, but as a religious obligation. But I was most moved by Rabbi Yoffie's observations on the rediscovery among Reform Jews of the power and the purpose of prayer, a new direction in our movement which ironically coincides with an admission among our rabbis, cantors and lay leaders that far too often, we have allowed our worship services to become "tedious, predictable and dull."

Rabbi Yoffie challenged us to ask ourselves why so many Jews today feel religiously unsatisfied in their synagogues; why generational differences are so particularly pronounced; why older members threaten to vote with their checkbooks if worship is changed, while younger members threaten to vote with their feet if it is not.

Rabbi Yoffie reminded us that Reform

Judaism did not begin as a movement centered on ethics, social justice or personal autonomy. It was "a reaction to the chaos and mechanical mumbling of the then-dominant forms of Jewish prayer. Worship reform was the very heart of early Reform Judaism. Classical Reform Jews, then as now, brought a deep earnestness to issues of prayer."

To the groundswell of Reform Jews searching for a Judaism that triggers passion, Rabbi Yoffie proposes nothing less than a new Reform revolution, rooted in the conviction that Judaism is a tradition of rebellion, revival and redefinition. He proposes that this worship revolution be built upon the premise of a partnership among rabbis, cantors and congregants. Rather than attempting to choose between "traditional" and "contemporary" worship, we are entitled to insist on the best of both worlds - continuity with our tradition and constant reformation.

To do this, Rabbi Yoffie suggests that we need both innovators and conservators: those who push the envelope and those who hold back. Today, however, Rabbi Yoffie believes it is innovators that we need most. "We must give our leaders the freedom to experiment, and to develop forms of communal prayer that are both 'Jewishly' authentic and fully indigenous to North America."

I was particularly excited by Rabbi Yoffie's suggestion that the single most important key to the success or failure of this revolution is music. "Every congregation that has revived its worship has begun with music that is participatory, warm and accessible. Our wisest synagogues invite their members to sing, because they know that Jews feel welcomed, accepted and empowered when they sing. Music converts the ordinary

into the miraculous, and individuals into a community of prayer. And music enables overly-intellectual Jews to rest their minds and open their hearts."

Rabbi Yoffie pointed out that while forty percent of Americans attend congregational worship every week, for Jews the figure is less than ten percent. He believes that Jews will return to their sanctuaries only when we offer them music that is vibrant, spiritual and community-building; music that speaks directly to their souls. While our attendance figures at CSZ may be slightly better than the national average, I agree with Rabbi Yoffie's assertion. I think it is time for us to ask ourselves why we have for so long shied away from professional music leadership in our own congregation. I hope this discussion will quickly move beyond the refrain of "But we've never done it that way before" and its companion "That's what they did in the synagogue where I grew up," to a sincere discussion of the contemporary roles of a cantor, choir, soloist and song leader in Jewish ritual music.

I returned from the Biennial inspired by Rabbi Yoffie's proposal of a partnership of rabbi, cantor and lay person. I hope you will share your thoughts with me this year, as we pursue re-invigoration of our congregation through our search for a new rabbi. For now, let me allow Rabbi Yoffie to conclude: "We do not want to be rabbis who are spiritual imperialists, insisting that worship is ours alone. We do not want to be cantors who are operatic obstructionists, intent on performance at the expense of prayer, and we do not want to be lay people who are conscientious objectors, objecting to everything that is not as it was. What we do want is for our members to join together with rabbi and cantor in creating worship that leaves us all uplifted, connected to ancient wisdom and to our deepest selves. And so, together, we will give Reform Jews the meaningful prayer they demand from us - worship rooted in tradition that still manages to seduce the soul and electrify the heart."

Ken yehi ratson.

Music in the Mishkan

Violinist Randall Weiss, CSZ member and assistant concert master of the San Jose Symphony, has organized a three-part chamber music series and has invited his friends and colleagues from around the Bay Area to join him. There are still two performances left, March 12 and April 30. To purchase tickets, pick up a flyer at CSZ or call Dahlia at 575-4961.

New Siddur

Continued from pg. 1

uniqueness; envisioning the Messianic time as the fulfillment of tikkun olam, (the repair of the world) and seeing ourselves as participants in the holy work of repair.

Until now, our prayerbook has included several alternative English versions of prayers, but only one Hebrew version. In this edition, we begin the process of including alternative Hebrew and Aramaic versions, so that our values can be reflected in all of our languages of prayer. Because of the gravity of altering traditional Hebrew prayers, we spent considerable time developing guidelines for alternative Hebrew. In keeping with the Sha'ar Zahav tradition, we decided only to add alternative prayers and not to re-

The Merriest Mitzvah

The Torah commands us to "Love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt." (Deut. 10:19)

San Francisco is a city of strangers. Congregation Sha'ar Zahav was founded in 1977 with a commitment to new values such as diversity as well as to traditional values such as hospitality. Since moving to our highly visible Dolores Street location in 1998, CSZ has attracted more guests than ever. But they don't see the real CSZ if they aren't warmly welcomed.

The Membership Committee develops programming to help the congregation grow. But anyone can smile and say hello to visitors, or make the occasional phone call welcoming a newcomer to the synagogue. If you want to uphold CSZ's reputation as a warm and accepting place, please sign up to do one of the following:

- Greet worshippers at services
- Welcome new or prospective members at potlucks
- Phone new members and give them a little orientation

You won't have to attend any meetings, we promise! Just decide which of the above you feel most comfortable doing, then notify Membership Chair Joe Hample (621-7675 or HampleJ@WellsFargo.com).

continued on pg. 11

move traditional ones. We did not alter any passages taken from the Torah, with the single exception of adding one word where necessary for gender inclusivity. Nor did we alter prayers like the Mourners' Kaddish, which serve so powerfully to connect us to the Jewish people across time and space. Where we did create Hebrew alternatives, our goals were:

- (1) to address gendered references to God
- (2) to offer other approaches to worship in addition to the traditional formulas that portray God as a monarch
- (3) to address gendered references to people
- (4) to include gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgender content
- (5) to avoid using disability as a metaphor
- (6) to universalize the text and express our desire for peace for all peoples

With the Sha'ar Zahav Siddur, we endeavor to respect the varied, and at times, contradictory, sensibilities of our people and our congregation. Our goal is for all members of our community to see ourselves reflected in the CSZ's liturgy, so that none of us experiences the invisibility and exclusion we have historically encountered. Our prayerbook attempts to embody the teaching that each of us is created *betselem Elohim*, "in the image of God." While we know that not every reading will speak to each of us, we hope that all of us will find a point of departure for prayer and for dialogue with the Source of Creation.

The Call of the Clarinet?

Do you play an instrument? Have you always wanted to play music with other people? Have you felt your musical life was separate from your Jewish life?

Well, here's your big chance! Gay Iz Mir, the Sha'ar Zahav klezmer band, is announcing regular open rehearsals. The band will be rehearsing on the fourth Sunday of every month, from 1 pm to 4 pm and you are welcome to join us.

No band experience necessary, no klezmer experience necessary - just you, your instrument and your enthusiasm! We will provide music for those who wish it; otherwise you are welcome to just come and jam! No commitment necessary; come as frequently as you like. Drop in and make music with us! For more information, call Tiela Chalmers at 782-9017.

CSZ Ritual Committee

Recommendations to the Va'ad for a Kashrut Policy

(This policy will be voted on at the February 14 Va'ad meeting. We invite your feedback.)

(with Va'ad amendments - 9/13/99)

CSZ kitchen:

- Maintain as dairy/parve.
- Use plates and utensils for dairy and parve items only.
- May serve meat on/with plates/utensils brought from outside.
- May store meat in refrigerator and wash plates/utensils in sink.

CSZ-sponsored functions:

- No pork or shellfish.
- Meat is kosher.
- No mixing of meat and dairy at the same meal.
- Check ingredients of baked goods which may contain butter or lard.
- Provide adequate non-meat, non-dairy alternatives.

People bringing food to CSZ for personal consumption are asked to respect the dairy/parve kitchen policy.

The purchase of the following is encouraged:

- Produce grown without pesticides (certified organic).
- Meats from animals raised without hormones and under humane conditions.
- Food from growers/distributors who pay reasonable wages and offer humane working conditions.
- Food distributed in ecologically responsible packaging.

"If I Only Had More Time..."



Rabbi Richman

There aren't enough hours in the day, weeks in the month, months in the year to accomplish all the work, play, relationship building service, meditation, travel and reading on our wish lists. This month however, we have help! Time is a little less scarce, we are entering a period of excess, of both time and spirit.

First, time. Both the Gregorian and the Jewish calendar reflect an excess of time this season: we get both a 29th day of February and an entire extra month of Adar. On Saturday, February 5, at sunset, Adar will officially begin. Another Adar (Adar Bet [Adar 2] or Adar Sheni [Second Adar]) will start in early March. Why are there two Adars this year? It all boils down to Jewish time.

Jewish time is a blend of the lunar and solar systems of creating calendars. The length of a Jewish month is lunar: it is determined by the time it takes for the moon to make one revolution around the earth. This revolution takes 29 days, 12 hours, 44 minutes and 3 1/2 seconds. However, since Jewish festivals need to fall in certain seasons, they follow the solar calendar. Can you imagine eating matzah brei in August? Sitting in a Sukkah in February? It just wouldn't be right. So, we get the best of both the sun and the moon.

But there is a price to pay for this pluralism. The problem with blending the solar and lunar calendars is that they don't match. The lunar year is 354 1/3 days, while the solar year has roughly 365 days. In order to make up the 11-day difference between them, the Jewish calendar, like the Gregorian calendar, added a leap year. Instead of an extra day, the Jewish leap year has a 13th month, an additional Adar. This extra month is added seven times over every 19-year period. We are now in one of those special seven years, known as a *shannah me'uberet* (a pregnant year). So this year, 5760, we have a whole extra month to do all the things we said we'd do if we only had more time...

But Jewish time is more than how many days there are in a month or year - it's about how we spend those days. The Talmud teaches "*Mi-shenikbnas Adar, marbim be-simhab*, (with the start of the month of Adar, we greatly increase joy)." Adar is a time of celebration and we are standing at the brink of two months of Adar: an increase in the increase of our joy.

Adar is usually connected with celebration because it houses Purim, the holy day of laughter and irony. But we have to wait for Adar Bet to increase our joy with Purim. How do we celebrate the first Adar now?

The theologian and social activist Abraham Joshua Heschel describes spiritual celebration: "Celebration is an act of expressing respect or reverence for that which one needs or honors." In modern usage, the term suggests demonstrations, often public demonstrations, of joy and festivity, such as singing, shouting, speechmaking, feasting and the like. Yet what I mean is not outward ceremony and public demonstration but rather inward appreciation, lending spiritual form to everyday acts.

In Adar, may we be attentive to the spiritual power of our everyday acts, increasing our moments of conscious celebration.

Rabbi Dorothy A. Richman
Rabbinical Counselor and Consultant

Kick Off Women's History Month at the Beit Café (Coffee House)

Kick off Women's History Month a bit early this year! Join CSZ members and friends on Wednesday, February 23, at 7:00 pm, for coffee, cake and creativity. There will be a unique and safe open mike forum to share personal expressions of creativity. All artistic forms of expression encouraged, voyeurs welcome too. (Special Bonus: discover Rabbi Richman's pre-Rabbinic bar-room hobby). For cafe location and to reserve stage time, please call Dahlia at 575-4961.

Va'ad Minutes

Jacob Rothman gave the d'var Torah on the story of Joseph and his encounter with his brothers in Egypt.

Program Director Dahlia Gross invited discussion on how to encourage volunteerism at CSZ. She noted that we are very proud of our tradition of aggressive volunteerism and she is concerned that we have moved away from that vision. A general discussion on possible reasons for this shift ensued and ideas to address the issue were raised. Kudos were offered to Dahlia for the very successful Chanukah Program, her many other quality programs and her professionalism.

President David Gellman began with a report from Jacob Rothman regarding fundraising. Jacob is looking for names of people who might be interested in joining a new fundraising committee. An initial project to work on would be the \$10,000 needed to print the new Siddur. Veteran fundraiser Ellie Cohen agreed to help get the committee off the ground.

The Nominating Committee, soon to have a new name, has been selected. The members are Amy Scharf, chair, Susan Tubbesing, Tiela Chalmers, Mark Klaiman and Geoff Benjamin. Jeff Sherman has agreed to fill the current Va'ad vacancy. As a replacement member, he will serve until the next election.

Geoff Benjamin has agreed to serve on the Dues Committee. Three other members have been asked to serve; a total of four new committee members are sought.

David invited feedback on Va'ad calls to the membership. People reported that the calls were well received. It was agreed that the calls will become an annual tradition.

The interim policy on Children at Services has also been well received thus far. The final approved version will be placed on laminated cards in

continued on pg. 10

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- Design and Layout: Kerri Schiff
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Display Ads are \$15 per column inch for nonmembers and \$10 per column inch for members with discounts available for size and frequency. Ads should be camera ready; any ads that require typesetting, camera and/or artwork will be subject to a one-time production charge.

Classified Ads are \$5 for up to 20 words, plus \$1 for each 10 additional words.

Payment must accompany ads and should be sent to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 290 Dolores St., San Francisco, California, 94103, marked: attention Forward advertising. We reserve the right to reject any ad.

February 2000 Volume 23, Issue 6.



Visiting the Sick

The commandment to visit the sick, *bikkur cholim*, is observed for the first time in Genesis when God pays a sick call while Abraham is recovering from circumcision. Although God set the precedent for visiting the sick, it has been scholars and disciples, rabbis and Jewish chaplains who carried on the mitzvah. In synagogues and Jewish communities today, it is the Rabbi, as well as each congregant, who is obligated to be a part of *bikkur cholim*, whether it is through preparing a meal, driving someone to the doctor, or being counted in a *shiva minyan*. If you are interested in volunteering for *bikkur cholim* activities or if you are sick and in need of acute assistance, please call the main office at 861-6932.

Why Is This New Member Different Than All Others?

This month we visit with Norma Faini-Pick, the congregation's own Auntie Mammie. Norma grew up in Brooklyn, reared as a "Red Diaper Baby" (a term for children reared by Communists), moved to the San Francisco twenty-one years ago and joined CSZ in July of last year. When queried as to why she joined the synagogue, Norma quipped, "It was time for me to get to know God. Or better yet, God should get to know me." To help with that journey, Norma is enrolled in the adult Bat Mitzvah classes. Like many other congregants, including this writer, Norma thinks the shul might be a good place to find a husband. Commenting on being single, she muses, "No matter what you do during the day, when you close the door at night, you're still alone." Listening to the variety of activities that Norma is involved in, we wonder if she is indeed ever home. In addition to being semi-retired from accounting and tax practice, she is: being trained by Kaiser to lead a "living with chronic illnesses seminar"; planning to study acting; writing and reading poetry; and also loves listening to music and attending live performances as often as she can.

The *Forward* posed the following four questions to Norma:

Q. Which biblical character do you most identify with?

A. Norma finds inspiration in the story of Naomi and Ruth admiring Naomi's strength and Ruth's dedication to her mother-in-law. For those who don't know the story, suffice it to say it was bad enough for Naomi to lose her husband and sons, but, suddenly she realized that she was a stranger in Moab, a foreign land. Gone also was her economic means of survival. She had no choice - she had to leave Moab. She received news that

Israel was once again a flourishing land, so she decided to return home to her people. Her daughters-in-law, Ruth and Orpah, decided to join her on her journey home. Orpah drops out when she learns she would have little hope of marriage in the land of Israel, but Ruth stays with Naomi. "Ruth's love for Naomi is real. I would hope to live my life so that I would earn that kind of loyalty." To make a long story short, Ruth, the Gentile widow from Moab was to become the bride of wealthy Boaz of Bethlehem! Norma becomes romantic and sentimental noting that, "I would live in a tent with the man I loved."

Q. What sin are you looking for forward to asking for forgiveness next Yom Kippur?

A. "The sin of omission," replies Norma. "I hope that I have not let people down. We are all so busy with our own schedules and priorities, I worry about overlooking over peoples needs."

Q. Which food item best describes your feelings to CSZ?

A. Norma's initial response is goulash because CSZ has so many different people in the blend. "But goulash is not an attractive food." So, "The *Forward*" has agreed to strike that for the record and accepts her second answer of "chicken soup" "It is warm and nurturing," states Norma. Let's hear it for being attractive AND warm and attractive!

Q. Describe your earliest religious experience?

A. Norma is convinced she had a very deep religious experience earlier in life. This experience happened outside

Continued on pg. 12

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Camp Scholarships Available

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The Bureau of Jewish Education, through the generosity of the Albert L. and Janet A. Schultz Supporting Foundation of the Jewish Community Endowment Fund of the Jewish Community Federation, is attempting to make the residential camping experience a reality for as many Jewish children as possible.

Applications for financial assistance are available through the CSZ office and are due in to the camps with supporting documentation by March 10.

Please contact Lea Salem or David Shneer if you would like more information or to receive an application.

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What Is Jewish Meditation?

Meditation is a spiritual practice deeply rooted within the Jewish tradition. It is a way to still the body, quiet the mind and open the soul to deeper levels of consciousness. Jewish meditation was practiced by prophets, rabbis and sages in the past; to this day, it is a path to holiness. Linked to our sacred texts, language and images, meditation has an important and legitimate place alongside other modes of Jewish observance, such as prayer and the study of Torah.

Jewish meditation assumes many forms, such as focusing on a letter, a word or one's breath; repeating a holy phrase; and using music and song (both liturgical chant and niggun) to induce a meditative state. Jewish meditation also includes the contemplation of text and of the beauty and enormity of creation; mindfulness; and other techniques that focus our attention on God.

What Is the Meditation Kallah?

The Meditation Kallah is a spiritual retreat designed to explore the role of meditation within the context of liberal Jewish personal and communal practice. Participants will

learn how silence and meditation can deepen the prayer experience, how mindfulness can enrich study and how spiritual practices can enhance daily living. The daily schedule will include teachings from the Jewish mystical tradition, question and answer sessions, group meditation, periods of silence and private time for personal reflection. Communal worship will incorporate traditional liturgy, meditation, song, niggun and chant. We will also address how we can integrate meditative practice into our everyday lives as well as into the life of our synagogues.

For registration information, call the UAHC Department of Adult Jewish Growth (212/650-4087).

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Report from the UAHC Biennial

From December 15-19, a delegation of 13 CSZ members and staff participated in the 65th Biennial Convention of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, the umbrella organization of the Reform Movement. In Orlando, Florida, we joined 5,000 other Reform Jews from all over the world in order to worship, sing, learn, socialize and come away with inspiration and ideas to bring back to our respective congregations. The Biennial is organized for maximum interaction among lay leaders and Jewish professionals from individual congregations, the regional organizations and the movement as a whole.

The Biennial was an exciting and energizing event. It was great to be among so many dedicated and inspiring Reform Jews. Our own Phyllis Mintzer was presented with a Morah Derech award, given to only six outstanding educators throughout the entire Reform Synagogue movement.

Workshops, meetings, activities and prayer took place from 6 am until after midnight, and there were so many options for any given time slot that all of us from CSZ had different experiences. Following are some of the highlights from a few of the CSZniks who participated.

From Joe Hample, our Membership Chair: "I saw the Biennial as a kind of Jewish Woodstock. Like a good Membership Chair, I went to workshops on recruitment and retention, where I learned that 'no one joins a synagogue because it needs a new roof.' I was also amazed by the size of DisneyWorld, like a small country whose president is Mickey Mouse."

Mike Rankin, who was elected to the National Executive Board of the UAHC, says that: "For me, the highlights of the Biennial were: seeing an old friend, Jay Geller from Los Angeles, installed as the first openly gay vice president of the UAHC; hearing the GLBT congregations de-

continued on page 13

Kadimah Corner



CSZ Policy on Children in the Sanctuary

(The Va'ad will vote on this policy at the February 14 meeting. We invite you feedback).

Welcome!

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav enthusiastically welcomes families with children to all of our services. If you are unfamiliar with our Minhag (traditions and practices), here is some quick information about kids and our building.

A special place to sit: We have a special section of the sanctuary particularly well-suited to families with children - an optional seating area. This area is on the far side of the sanctuary from where you come in and get your prayer books. It is to the right of the Ark as you face the Ark, and extends into the "Beit Shalom" small worship area. While you are welcome to sit anywhere, you may find this spot especially congenial. There is a box of quiet toys and coloring materials, which your child is free to use. In addition, there is space behind the last pew for children to spread out as they play, color or doze. Some parents find that sitting with other children increases, rather than decreases, the kids' restlessness. We leave this decision up to you.

Bathrooms and water: Bathrooms are located on the second floor near the children's seating area and on the first floor near the gift shop. There is a water fountain downstairs by the main stairs. You are welcome to bring quiet snacks and covered drink cups for your child with you into the sanctuary. Please be considerate and clean up afterwards.

Running and walking around: Our sanctuary has a lovely wood floor which carries sound which can echo. So please make sure that your child does not run around during services. Sound from running in the oneg room and the downstairs hall may also carry into the sanctuary. Please do not allow your child to walk or crawl around or on the bimah or Ark platform during services. While these structures are very attractive to kids, this is very distracting to service leaders and many congregants.

Noise during services: We love having kids at services, and the occasional sweet little noise only adds to the feeling of

spirit and community. But we also need to be sensitive to the needs of those who come to pray and be contemplative, or who are in shul to say Kaddish and mourn. Of course, different people have different sensitivities to noise, and we try to strike a balance in our community. So, if your child is fussy or needs to chat loudly, please take her or him downstairs for as long as you need to. We have speakers in the oneg room so that the service can also be heard there. Particularly quiet times are the Amidah, the silent standing prayer in the middle of the service, the sermon or drash, also in the middle of the service, and the Kaddish, toward the end of the service. If a child becomes disruptive during the service, the greeter may offer you some assistance.

Honors for children: We often honor our children by inviting them to come up to open the doors of the Ark for the Aleinu prayer, which is toward the end of the service. Of course, children do not have to participate in this honor, but it is often fun and exciting for them. Feel free to come up with them and to bring infants, as well.

Safety: The windows in the upstairs of the building are very low. We have child-proof locks on them to prevent them from opening dangerously wide, but please, if you have a toddler, double-check that the locks are engaged. Please also do not leave children downstairs unattended; our emergency fire doors make it possible for children to get out of the building on their own.

Tot Shabbat

Join CSZ tots and their families the fourth Saturday of each month for age-appropriate prayer, art, food and fun. Upcoming dates are: February 25, March 22 and April 27. All programs take place at CSZ, 10:30 am unless otherwise noted. For more information or to get on the Tot mailing list, please contact Dahlia Gross at 575-4961 or cszdahlia@yahoo.com.

FEBRUARY-SHEVAT/ADAR 1

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
		25 Shevat - 1 • 6:30 pm - Bikkur Cholim Meeting and Dinner	• 4 pm - Kadim
1 Adar 1 - 6 • Super Sunday	2 Adar 1 - 7 • 2 pm-3 pm - Healing Service	3 Adar 1 - 8 • 7 pm - Adult Education Meeting	• 4 pm - Kadim • 7 pm - Newsle
8 Adar 1 - 13 • 10 am - Social Action 11:30 am visits Jewish Home for the Aged • 6 pm - Newsletter Layout	9 Adar 1 - 14 • 6:30 pm - Children's Education Board Meeting • 6:30 pm - Va'ad Meeting	10 Adar 1 - 15	• 4 pm - Kadim
15 Adar 1 - 20	16 Adar 1 - 21 • 7 pm - Membership Committee • 7:30 pm-9:30 pm Great Books	17 Adar 1 - 22	• 4 pm - Kadim • 7 pm - Beit C Wome
22 Adar 1 - 27	23 Adar 1 - 28	23 Adar 1 - 29	

MARCH DEADLINE MONDAY, FEB. 7

ARTICLES

Please submit articles via email to brian.jersky@sonoma.edu. If you do not have email, please submit articles on a 3.5 inch disk and mail to CSZ. No late submissions will be accepted without prior approval of the Forward editor.

ADVERTISING

To place a display ad, contact Rosyln Fuerman (510/526-1209 or froslyn@earthlink.net). To place a classified ad, call the office.

Purim

If you thought the Chanukah Gong Show was funny, wait until you see this year's Purim Spiel! That's right, Purim is right around the corner (March 20-21), and it's time to start planning. To be a part of this year's planning committee, please call Dahlia at 575-4961.

East Bay Services

February 18, 7:15 pm

Shabbat Potluck at the home of Ida Kuluk, Susan Spott and Evan Kuluk 4042 Maple Ave., Oakland, CA 94602, 510/530-4673

Sponsor an Oneg Shabbat!

Sponsoring the oneg Shabbat following services is a lovely way to commemorate a special occasion. Onegs can be sponsored in honor of a simcha, as a tribute to the memory of a loved one or "just because." The cost is \$80-\$120 and we have a number of available dates in the coming months. Please call the CSZ office if you would like to inquire about sponsoring an oneg Shabbat on a specific date or would like more information.

DAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SHABBAT
Shevat - 2	27 Adar 1 - 3	28 Adar 1 - 4	Shabbat Mishpatim 29 Adar 1 - 5
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5:18 pm - Candle Lighting • 6:30 pm - Dor Rishon Brotherhood Dinner • 8:15 pm - Shabbat Services led by Jeff Piade and Lyssa Friedman 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:15 am - Torah Study • 9:30 am - Kadimah • 10 am - Shabbat Services • 1 pm-2:15 pm - Meditation Chavurah
4 Adar 1 - 9	5 Adar 1 - 10	6 Adar 1 - 11	Shabbat Terumah 7 Adar 1 - 12
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7:30 pm-9 pm - Feast of Jewish Learning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5:26 pm - Candle Lighting • 8:15 pm - Shabbat Services led by Howard Steiermann and Nicole Bloom 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:15 am - Torah Study • 9:30 am - Kadimah • 10 am - Shabbat Services • 1 pm-2:15 pm - Meditation Chavurah
11 Adar 1 - 16	12 Adar 1 - 17	13 Adar 1 - 18	Shabbat Tetzaveh 14 Adar 1 - 19
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5:34 pm - Candle Lighting • 7:15 pm - East Bay Service • 8:15 pm - Shabbat Services led by Michael Sarid and Kristen Gustavson 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:15 am - Torah Study • 10 am - Shabbat Services led by Andy Fyne • 1 pm-2:15 pm - Meditation Chavurah
18 Adar 1 - 23	19 Adar 1 - 24	20 Adar 1 - 25	Shabbat Ki Tissa 21 Adar 1 - 26
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6:30 pm - Ritual Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10:30 am - Tot Shabbat • 5:41 pm - Candle Lighting • 8:15 pm - Shabbat Services led by Daniel Chesir and Dev Felder Naily 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:15 am - Torah Study • 9:30 am - Kadimah • 10 am - Shabbat Services led by Robin Leonard and Leslie Kane • 10:30 am - Tot Shabbat • 1 pm-2:15 pm - Meditation Chavurah

Open Hand For The Holidays "Thank You"

On Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, approximately 96 volunteers from CSZ and Jewish Family and Children's Services put on funny paper hats, plastic aprons and rubber gloves or turned their cars into delivery vans for Project Open Hand. We took over most of the volunteer slots to ensure that Project Open Hand's clients continued to receive meals during the holidays.

Some of our volunteers chopped vegetables and helped to prepare meals. The afternoon shift had fun with a conveyor belt where they packaged the meals for delivery. After all that work an army of our volunteers descended upon Open Hand to deliver the food to their clients, people living with symptomatic HIV/AIDS.

This has been an annual CSZ event for over ten years. We are very proud of our commitment and our annual success at filling so many volunteer slots. Because of the decrease in Open Hand clients this year, we had more people volunteer than available slots. Thank you to everyone who participated and to those that we had to turn away.



First Ever Northern California Reform Movement Shabbat Friday evening, June 16, 2000

Historic service to be held in San Francisco
at Congregation Sherith Israel



Join clergy and congregants from all over
our region in celebrating the growth of a
vibrant Reform Jewish community on the
West Coast

Keynote Speaker: Rabbi Sheldon Zimmerman,
President of Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion



Sponsored by the American Conference of Cantors,
Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion,
the Pacific Association of Reform Rabbis, the Union of
American Hebrew Congregations Pacific Central West
Council, and UAHC Camps Newman and Swig



Va'ad Minutes

continued from pg. 4

pews along with emergency instructions and parking information.

A resolution regarding the Knight Initiative was brought to the va'ad and unanimously approved. It read, "Be it resolved that Congregation Sha'ar Zahav opposes the Knight Limitation on Marriage Initiative, Proposition 22."

David expressed our warmest possible thanks to Elise Fineberg for her extraordinary service as our interim educator.

Membership Committee member Ami Zusman presented two new households for membership and noted that we had one resignation.

Personnel Committee chair Lyssa Friedman presented an updated Organizational Chart which was approved.

Webmaster Drew Parker presented the new Va'ad web page. We appreciated his many efforts on this and other projects related to the CSZ website.

David suggested that our Kashrut policy draft be published in the next JGF (see separate article) and voted on at the Va'ad meeting following. The remaining issues regard the use of kosher meat and guidelines for non-CSZ events.

Diana Buchbinder reported that the Rabbi Search Committee has submitted our application to the Rabbinical Placement Commission of the CCAR.

Condolences

We extend our condolences to members who have suffered recent losses:

Mark Freeman, on the death of his father, Ben Freeman.

Greta Miskatel, on the death of her cousin, Lena Moises.

Mike Rankin, on the death of his friend, Tom Henderson.

Synagogue Information

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

290 Dolores Street
861-6932 (voice); 861-6081 (fax)
Programming office, 575-4961
Education office, 575-4962
office@shaarzahav.org (email)
http://www.shaarzahav.org (web)

Officers:

President, David Gellman (550-9449, sfsgellman@aol.com or president@shaarzahav.org)
Vice President, Lisa Katz
Vice President, Lyssa Friedman

Treasurer, Arthur Slepian
Recorder, Sue Bojdak

Va'ad (Board) Members:

Diana Buchbinder (ex officio)
Ellie Cohen
Sarita Groisser
Howard Herman
Rose Katz
Robin Leonard
Jacob Rothman
Jeff Sherman
Robert Tat
Ami Zusman

CSZ Staff:

Rabbinical Consultant, Dorothy Richman
Educator, David Shneer
Administrator, Lea Salem
office@shaarzahav.org
Program Director, Dahlia Gross
cszdahlia@yahoo.com
Kadimah Head Teacher, Phyllis Mintzner
Administrative Assistant, Melanie Kushnir
Youth Advisor, Meredith Fenton

Committee Chairs:

Adult Education, Ron Edelman and Prudence Carter
Archives, open
Baby Havurah, open
Bequests and Donations, Richard Inlander
Bikkur Cholim, open
Bisexual Havurah, Jim Frazin
Book Group, Mark Mackler
Building and Grounds, Arthur Cohen
Bylaws, Richard Inlander
Cemetery, Richard Inlander
Children's Education Board, Liz Schaffer
Dor Rishon Brotherhood, open
Dues Liaison, open
East Bay Havurah, Ida Kuluk and Larry Wexler
Endowment Fund, David Stein

Environmental Action, open
Finance, Arthur Slepian
Fine Arts, Bob Gutterman
Fundraising, Jacob Rothman
Gift Shop, Jeff Rubin
Israel Havurah, Ron Lezell
La'atid, Geoff Benjamin
Leadership Development, Paul Cohen
Library, Joan Goldman
Long-Range Planning, Allan Gold
Membership, Joe Hample
Mishkan Dolores Capital Campaign, Ellie Cohen
Newsletter, Brian Jersky
Past Presidents Council, David Stein
Personnel, Lyssa Friedman
Public Relations, Sharyn Saslafsky
Rabbi Search, Diana Buchbinder and Alex Ingersoll
Ritual, Nicole Bloom (bloom@netscape.net)
Social Action, Laura Lowe and Allan Berenstein
Toddler/Pre-school Havurah, Deena Lahn
UAHC National Liaison, Mike Rankin
UAHC Regional Liaisons, Daniel Chesir and Robin Leonard
WCGLBJO Liaison, David Gellman
Women's Havurah, open

Members wishing to contact any Va'ad member or committee chair are invited to obtain his or her number from the synagogue office.

Bikkur Cholim: If you or a friend who is a member of Sha'ar Zahav is ill in the hospital or at home, and would like to have a member of the Bikkur Cholim Committee call or visit, please notify the synagogue office.

Member of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and the World Congress of Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Jewish Organizations.

Contributions

AIDS Fund

Paul Glackman.

Bikkur Cholim Fund

Phyllis and George Mintzer,
in appreciation of the love and
support of the congregation.

**Shelley Spiro and Gabriele
Kassner,** in memory of
Brian Christianson.

**Shelley Spiro and Gabriele
Kassner,** in memory of
Bernard Pechter.

**Shelley Spiro and Gabriele
Kassner,** in memory of
Rabbi Ben Marcus.

**Shelley Spiro and Gabriele
Kassner,** in memory of
Dorothy Gold.

**Shelley Spiro and Gabriele
Kassner,** in memory of
Rachel Mailman.

**Shelley Spiro and Gabriele
Kassner,** in memory of
John Golebowski.

Children's Education Fund

Phyllis and George Mintzer,
in appreciation of the love and
support of the congregation.

Allan Berenstein, in honor of
Mary Sheff on her 88th birthday.

**Stephanie Hannaford and
Chris Witzel,** in honor of the
25th anniversary of David Stein
and Alex Ingersoll.

Kim David Greenwood, in memory
of Celeste Morrow.

Adam Klein.

Allan Berenstein, in memory of
A. J. Berenstein.

Bob and Riva Frederick, in memory
of Isa Leah Cymrot-Wu.

Carolyn Pines and Judy Schwartz,
in honor of Dev Felder Nolly and
the entire CSZ community.

Cecile and David Winters, in honor
of Reuben Winters Raff's 7th birthday.

Deborah Agre, in honor of Lea
Salem's service to the community.

**Deborah and Michael Sosebee
and family,** in memory of
Lee Edward Schwartz.

Eli Weinstein, in memory of
Lee Edward Schwartz.

Janice Weinstein, in honor of Eli
Weinstein's many contributions to CSZ.

Lea Salem and Lisa Ochs, in honor
of the birth of Sara and Dev's son.

Jonathan Bell, in memory of
Ethel Ichelson.

General Fund

Leonard Brill, in honor of Gabriele
and Shelley's anniversary and blessing.

Jason Honig.

Marta Friedman, in memory of
Jeremy David Friedman.

Mike Zimmerman, in memory of
Ben Freeman.

Mr. and Mrs. Alter Nathan Bader.

Norma Faini-Pick, in memory of
Gilbert Faini.

**Shelley Spiro and Gabriele
Kassner,** in celebration of the
anniversary of Florence and
Steve Nacamulli.

Robert Tufel, in memory of
Rose Fodiman.

Shoshana Levenberg, in memory
of Moishe Levenberg.

Susan Tubbesing, in memory of
Fay Mutchnik.

**Shelley Spiro and Gabriele
Kassner,** in celebration of the
anniversary of Claudia Bernard
and Howard Herman.

**Shelley Spiro and Gabriele
Kassner,** in celebration of 25th
anniversary of Alex Ingersoll and
David Stein.

Library Fund

**Shelley Spiro and Gabriele
Kassner,** in honor of the birthday
of Merry Lusk.

**Shelley Spiro and Gabriele
Kassner,** in honor of the birthday
of Phil Charney.

**Shelley Spiro and Gabriele
Kassner,** in honor of the birthday
of Walter Leiss.

**Shelley Spiro and Gabriele
Kassner,** in honor of the birthday
of Ron Lezell.

Mishkan Dolores Capital Campaign

Benjamin Gold, in memory of
Dorothy Tonn Gold.

Batya Kalis, in memory of
Sherman Kalis.

Batya Kalis, in memory of Philip Kalis.

Ellie Cohen, in honor of the love of
David Stein and Alex Ingersoll.

Ellie Cohen, with wishes for
Phyllis Mintzer's speedy recovery.

Becky Dixonn, in memory of
Rachel Mailman.

Prayerbook Fund

Jeffrey Stoia, in memory of
Bernard Pechter.

Ritual Fund

Nancy Meyer, in honor of
Susan Unger.

Social Action Fund

Allan Berenstein, in honor of
Melanie Kushnir's having passed
her citizenship exam.

Allan Berenstein, to welcome
Rabbi Richman.

Allan Berenstein, in honor of
Laura Lowe, Sarita Groisser and
Dahlia Gross in appreciation for
their support and friendship.

Allan Berenstein, in memory of
Ellen Albin.

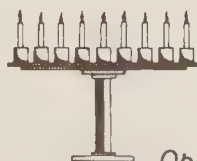
Allan Berenstein, in honor of the
26th anniversary of Gabriele Kassner
and Shelley Spiro.

Dor Rishon Brotherhood

Dor Rishon Brotherhood meets the first Friday of each month for a Shabbat dinner on the town. This month please join us on Friday, February 4, 6:30 pm. Call Bill Goldstein for monthly location (510/793-4283).

For All Things Judaic

**Tallit!
Toys!
Candles!**



Sh'ar Zahav
Gift Shop
Support our Gift Shop
Support our Congregation



**Great
New
Merchandise!**

Open Fridays 7:30-8:05 pm or by appointment. Call 861-6932.

The Merriest Mitzvah

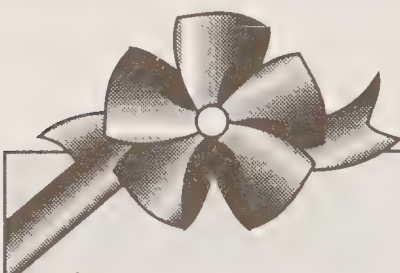
continued from pg. 3

If you've got additional ideas,
we'd love to hear them.

According to the Talmud (Shabbat 127a), hospitality is one of the virtues rewarded both in this life and in the world-to-come. Let's build our avant-garde community by joyfully honoring this ancient commandment. It's the coolest way to be Jewish.

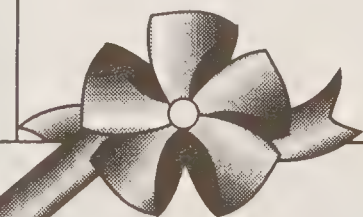
Please help!

We're searching for the man who videotaped the Chanukah Gong Show. Please contact Dahlia (575-4961) if you made the tape or know who did. Thanks.



February Birthdays

- 1 Joan Goldman
Alisa Weiner
- 2 Jonah Birnbaum
- 3 Michael Begley
Paula Fleisher
Jacob Robinson
- 5 Patricia Byers
Steve Weitz
Ami Zusman
- 6 Steven Diller
Andy Fyne
- 7 Oscar Klausner
Ida Kuluk
Maya Rubin
- 8 Kirby Haujinz
- 9 Mark Freeman
Amy Gentile
- 10 Carol Cantwell
Ruth Miguel
Pascal Peterson
Elias Ross-Trupin
Samuel Tucker
- 11 Emma Abinanti-Sena
Marion Williamson
- 12 Samuel Dick-Gelmis
Joan Lefkowitz
- 13 Leva Choden
Dafna Wu
- 14 Rimma Ashkinadze
Sara Feinstein Shor
Avraham Giannini
Irene Ogus
Beth Ross
Susan Unger
- 17 Barry Siegel
- 18 Lauren Augusta
Sheila Manalo



- 20 James Edlin
Hilary Zaid
- 21 Amy Scharf
Andrew Schwartz
- 22 Susan Tubbesing
- 25 Alex Ingersoll
Nancy Silverrod
- 26 Ethan Frazin
Ari Grossman-Naples
- 27 Nancy Brunn
Benjamin
Rainero-de Haan
Neil Rosenbaum
- 28 Julie Dorf
Steven Gaynes
Danny Kodmur

Why Is This New Member Different Than All Others?

Continued from pg. 5

Baptist Church in Mississippi, hearing gospel music, during a voter registration drive. She felt the power of Martin Luther King, Jesse Jackson, Rosa Parks and Andrew Young as part of the march in support of Jim Meredith, through the powerful and moving gospel music. She felt in that moment, she had traveled all that way to do God's work. She tells the story of being shanghaied in the basement church, signing in the dark, encircled by bigots, with their headlights briefly illuminating the

basement as they circled their prey. Martin Luther King, Jr. enters the basement and miraculously procures a school bus. Something emanated from King; he could do anything. The group was shuttled to safety in Memphis. Norma points to that experience as a cornerstone in keeping the faith.

CSZ is proud to have a woman with such a warm heart and a spirited personality as a new member. We hope you will get to know Norma and hear her stories.

Joe Hample's Chanukah Song

You must remember this,
A bris is still a bris,
A chai is just a chai.
Pastrami still belongs on rye,
As time goes by.

With holidays in view,
A Jew is still a Jew,
On that you can rely.
No matter if we eat tofu
As time goes by.

Old shtetl customs, never out of date.
All those potatoes someone has to grate.
One flame in the window,
keep counting till there's eight
To light the winter sky.

In the Bronx or in the Mission,
It's still the same tradition,
That no one can deny.
We roam, but we recall our birthright,
As time goes by.

Dreidels and chocolate, never
out of date.
Ancient Semitic glories to relate.
Blue-and-white giftwrap, ain't this
country great, And festive chazerai!

It's still the same old Torah,
It's still the same menorah,
We've latkes still to fry.
December's when I feel most Jewish,
As time goes by.



Introduction to Judaism

About this class

Introduction to Judaism provides a wonderful opportunity for individuals and couples wanting to learn more about Judaism, and is required for those considering conversion. During this 12-week introductory course, you will learn about Jewish beliefs, customs, history and community. Interfaith couples are strongly encouraged to take this class together.

Where

Sherith Israel

When

1/13-3/30/00, Thurs 7:00-9:00 pm

Instructors: Rabbi Helen Cohn, Rabbi Evan Goodman, Rabbi Stephen Kahn, Rabbi Yoel Kahn.

To register please contact Naomi Horowitz, Introduction to Judaism Registrar, at (415) 392-7080, ext. 17.

Co-sponsored by the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, Congregation Beth Israel-Judea, Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, Congregation Emanu-El, and Congregation Sherith Israel.

Report from the UAHC Biennial

continued from page 7

scribed by the leadership of the Union as the very model of what a synagogue should be, referring especially to our warmth, our spirit and our inclusiveness; and just hanging out with friends, both gay and straight, whom I see all too seldom."

For Robin Leonard, a CSZ Va'ad member: "The highlight of every Biennial I have attended has been the connections I have made with people. And, while my Biennial experience this year was different from my past experiences, it was still about making connections.

I tried to attend Biennial events, but I had to spend most of my time closing up my aunt's apartment and moving her into a nursing home, because she was recently diagnosed with metastatic breast cancer. One morning, however, I woke up early enough to attend a 7am Biennial healing service. At the end of the service, the rabbi asked us to pair up, talk for a few minutes with our partner and then offer each other a blessing. A woman sitting a few seats from me caught my eye and came over. I explained the situation with my aunt - her diagnosis and my work that week. My new friend offered me words of comfort. Then I asked her why she had come to that service. She had been diagnosed with metastatic breast cancer last year. I listened to her and offered her my blessing. She was generous with her time and knowledge, giving me spiritual support and practical suggestions. Our finding each other that morning was *besbert* (meant to be).

Alex Ingersoll, Co-Chair of the Rabbi Search Committee had this to say: "...Saturday morning two members of our group had the honor of an aliyah. The second aliyah was announced as honoring the 20th Anniversary of UAHC's Outreach Program. All those who had converted to Judaism were invited to the bimah and James Carlson and I made our way up to share in saying the blessings with approximately 100 others. Looking out at the sea of faces from the bimah was extraordinary - and making our way back to our seats evoked waves of smiles, handshakes and kisses from loving strangers and friends. A real high."

"In many workshops, I saw how 'far ahead of the curve' we are in many aspects, but just when I might have started to feel smug, I would hear about areas where we can still improve. I would hear new (to me) tunes that were both beautiful and exciting, or of building complexes which hummed with activity seven days a week. Rabbis spoke of educational programs where the goal was to provide every congregant with the knowledge to be ready to explain their shul's vision and goals. We're doing great, no doubt about it, but that doesn't mean that meeting with varied leaders from the rest of the country can't teach me and us a few more things."

James Carlson, CSZ's assistant treasurer says: "Of all the highlights, the pinnacle was an emotional and spiritual Havdalah service for 1,000 people led by Rabbi Lawrence Kushner."

David Gellman, synagogue president, found his most satisfying experience of the conference to be his contact with other synagogue presidents nationwide. "I was intrigued to learn how other congregations handle issues we face at CSZ: hiring a new Rabbi, coping with expansion, welcoming Jews-by-choice, accessibility of space and liturgy, even such esoteric issues as disposal of ex-

cess pews! It is gratifying to know that we exist as part of a larger community, from which we can draw spiritual and practical support."

Administrator Lea Salem says: "My personal experience was one of awe at the depth and breadth of human talent that constitutes our Reform Movement. I came away feeling prouder than I ever have before to be not just a Jew but a Reform Jew."

Paul Cohen, CSZ past president and veteran of many Biennials says: "I answer people who ask me about the value of UAHC Membership by pointing out that over a dozen of our members came to learn, teach, pray together and grow with Reform Jews from all over North America. They have a transformational experience which translates into a strengthening of our congregations."

If you would like to receive copies of any of the speeches and materials from the Orlando Biennial or are potentially interested in attending the next National UAHC Biennial which takes place in December 5-9, 2001 in Boston or the Regional Biennial, scheduled for February 9-11, 2001 in San Jose, please contact the CSZ office or check out the UAHC Website at www.uahc.org.

A Valentine's Mitzvah At The Jewish Home For The Aged

How many of you have wanted an adopted Bubbe or Zayde to visit in San Francisco? Here's your opportunity! Join with other members of CSZ on Sunday, February 13 from 10:00-11:30 am and visit with residents of the Jewish Home for the Aged in San Francisco. This is our first project with the Jewish Home and we're really looking forward to it.

We are going to participate in a special Sunday morning bagel and coffee brunch. Our job is very important. As you can imagine, residents at the Jewish Home get lonely. We will spend about an hour eating and talking to the residents who choose to participate. We encourage everyone at CSZ to participate. The residents really enjoy visiting with children, teenagers, young, middle and older adults.

What should you bring? It's the day before Valentine's Day, so be creative. Besides yourself, bring something small to show the people that you care: a card is great, especially one that you made yourself. A photograph of you, your children, your family, your pet or your garden will give you a great starting point for conversation. You could bring a flower for the residents or an art project by your children.

Although the residents may like it, we have been asked not to bring food. We will be contributing financially to pay for the food provided by the Jewish Home.

We are looking for about 10-15 volunteers for this project. Please call either Dahlia at the synagogue or Laura at 247-2409 to sign up.

New to CSZ? Haven't been in a synagogue in awhile? Exploring Judaism? Whatever the reason, you may be unfamiliar with Hebrew terms commonly used at CSZ

and many other synagogues and Jewish institutions. We thus offer the following list as a guide. (Please let us know if you'd like us to add any words.)

עליה (aliyah) - to go up;
1) as in being invited to recite the blessings before and after the Torah is read;
2) or when one moves to Israel

עמידה (amidah) -
silent standing prayer

אוף רוף (auf ruf) -
ceremony held for a couple prior to marriage (yiddish)

ביקור חולים (bikkur cholim) -
visiting the ill

בימה (bimah) - stage;
the raised platform from which ritual leaders conduct services

בני מצבה (b'nai mitzvah) -
collective noun for bar (son) and bat(daughter) mitzvah (commandment)

חבורה (chavurah) -
group of friends

דבר תורה (devar torah) -
words of Torah; commentary on the weekly Torah portion

דור ראשון (dor risbon) -
first generation; social group for CSZ men over 40

ערב (erev) - evening

גמילות חסדים (gemilut chasdim) - acts of loving kindness

הבדלה (havdalah) -
ritual performed Saturday night after three stars appear in the sky marking the end of Shabbat and welcoming the new week

קבלת שבת (kabbalat shabbat) -
receiving or welcoming the Sabbath

קדיש (kaddish) -
prayer recited in memory of someone who has died

קדימה (kadimah) -
forward; CSZ religious school

קידוש (kiddush) -
blessing over wine

כיפה (kippah) -
head covering; yarmulke

לעתיד (la'atid) -
toward the future; CSZ group for young and young at heart

מעריב (ma'ariv) - evening prayer

מחזור (machzor) -
high holiday prayerbook

מזל טוב (mazel tov) - good luck;
used to mean congratulations

מנחה (minchah) -
afternoon service

מנהג (minhag) - custom

משפחה (mishpachah) - family

מצבה (mitzvah) -
commandment; also used to refer to a good deed

מוציא (motzi) -
blessing over bread

מסף (musaf) - additional service

נחם (naches) - pride (yiddish)

אנג (oneg) - joy; the social hour following Shabbat services

עשה שלום (oseh shalom) -
maker of peace; song sung to end services and meetings

פרשה (parashah) -
weekly Torah portion (plural: *parashot*)

ראש השנה (Rosh Hashanah) -
literally head of the year; Jewish New Year

שער זהב (Sha'ar Zahav) -
Golden Gate

שבת שלום (Shabbat Shalom) -
Sabbath peace

שחרית (shacharit) -
morning prayer

שכינה (shechinah) -
in-dwelling presence of God; God's feminine essence

שואה (Shoah) - the Holocaust

סידור (siddur) - prayerbook

תלית (tallit/tallis) - prayer shawl

תיקון עולם (tikkun olam) -
repair of the world

תודה רבה (todah rabah) -
thank you very much

צדקה (tzedakah) -
righteous act; mitzvah of giving

ועד (va'ad) - board

יארצית (yahrzeit) -
anniversary of a death (yiddish)

יום כיפור (yom kippur) -
Day of Atonement

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Naches

To **Sara and Dev Felder Noily**, on the birth of their son, Jesse Lev Felder Noily.

To **Ellen Litman**, on the birth of her granddaughter, Hannah Rose.

To **Kim Warsaw**, on the release of a CD by her vocal ensemble Solstice. The CD can be ordered by mailing a check for \$13.50, payable to Solstice, 1677 Church Street, San Francisco, CA 94131.

To **Melanie Kushnir** for passing her U.S. Citizenship exam.

To **Elise Fineberg** on her acceptance to the California Culinary Academy.

To **Mike Rankin**, on being elected to the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations.

Oneg & Flower Sponsorship

These generous people sponsored the Oneg Shabbat in recent weeks:

1/14 **Marsha Blachman** in loving memory of Ben Blachman.

1/21 **Karen Erlichman** in loving memory of her uncle, Theodore Tannewald.

1/28 **Rae Richman and Mark Morewitz**, in honor of Rabbi Dorothy Richman.

Special thanks to **David Maltz** who is generously sponsoring flowers for one service per month throughout the calendar year.

New Members

The Membership Committee is pleased to announce that our congregation gained the following new members this month. A warm welcome to the most recent people to join our family:

Johanna Quashnoffsky
Thomas Whiting

We are grateful to see our congregation grow. It is up to all of us to help our new members feel welcome as they become active participants in our community.

Super Sunday 2000 - Make a Difference in Just One Day

Super Sunday, the Jewish Community Federation's yearly fundraising phone-a-thon, is your chance to reach out and connect to our Jewish community. During this one-day event you'll help to ask nearly 10,000 Jews in the Bay Area to participate in building and strengthening our Jewish Community. CSZ will be sending volunteers to Super Sunday to provide assistance and as a way of showing our gratitude as one of its many beneficiary organizations. We need your help. Please call Dahlia Gross, CSZ Program Director, to volunteer and show your support, 575-4961.

Classifieds

CO-PARENT WANTED. I am a 35-year-old warm, educated, financially secure San Franciscan who will make a great dad. Looking for a woman or couple in the area interested in co-parenting. Flexibility, communication, stability and commitment to raising the child Jewish a must. Can't hurt to explore the option. Call 415/552-9212.

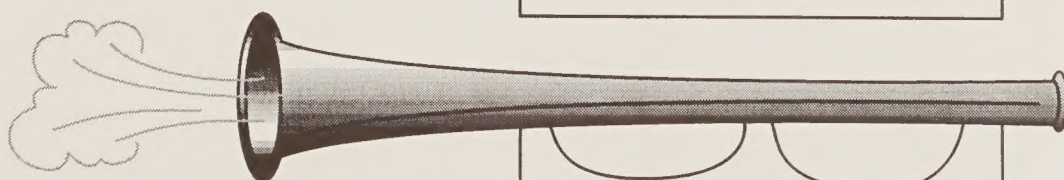
TROPICAL PARADISE-Kauai vacation rental: 2 cottages & 1 bedroom house on private drive sharing lush garden. Centrally located. Call Sandy Meyers (808/822-7537) or e-mail sand@aloha.net.

ALL THINGS MACINTOSH: Trouble-shooter for hire! Solve mysterious freezes. Improve performance. Soft-ware support, tutoring and more. Roslyn, 510/526-1209.

PET CARETAKERS: Full-time, part-time and SUMMER positions available. Must love dogs and cats. Applicant must be at least 16 years old. Send resumes or letters to Pet Camp, 525 Phelps St., San Francisco, 94124 or fax 415-282-1192. Check out our web site: www.petcamp.com.

Members' Yahrzeits

- 1 Steven Richter
- 2 Stephen Walters
- 6 Ronald Wilmot
- 14 Barbara Rosenblum
- 15 Alan Ellis
- 22 Leland Vogel
- 29 Ede Rosen



DREAMING OF PROPERTY

- Buying your first home? • Buying a second vacation home?
- Buying commercial or investment property? • Refinancing residential or commercial property?

STEP ONE:

Arrange financing
Call Irene Ogus

Pacific Guarantee Mortgage
415-865-0777 or 415-252-4216



STEP TWO:

Find the right property for you
Call Deborah Udin
Zephyr Real Estate
415-552-0129 x122



STEP THREE: Pick up your keys.

Percentage of all
commissions to CSZ

February Anniversaries

- 2 Merry Luskin and Meredith Florian
- 6 Barbara Cymrot and Dafna Wu
- 14 Joan Lefkowitz and Stacey Shuster
- 17 Peter Barnes and Leyna Bernstein
Bill Denebeim and Mark Vogel
- 21 Lele Diamond and Rachel Field
- 29 Susan Schwartz and Julie Schlesinger

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Grove (1000 trees)	\$5000.00

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Donors of \$5,000 will have their names placed
on a central dedicatory wall at Lahav.

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